

# Saint Monica-Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish

[www.smstaparishsf.org](http://www.smstaparishsf.org)

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ September 8, 2024

## St. Monica Catholic Church

470 24th Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94121  
Tel: 415-751-5275 Fax: 415-751-0440

Office Hours:  
Monday - Friday  
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM



## St. Monica Catholic Church MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil  
5:00 PM

Sunday  
8:00 AM (Vietnamese)

11:00 AM

Weekdays  
8:30 AM (Monday-Saturday)

Rosary  
8:00 AM (Monday-Saturday)

Confessions  
4:00 PM - 4:40 PM Saturday

### Administrator

Rev. Ben Rosado  
pastor@smstaparishsf.org

### Parochial Vicar

Rev. Jerome Murphy

### In Residence

St. Monica Rectory  
Rev. Paulinus Iwuji, SMMM, Ph.D.  
Catholic Chaplain VA Hospital

St. Thomas the Apostle Rectory  
Rev. Te Van Nguyen  
Vietnamese Ministry  
Catholic Chaplain for UCSF

Rev. Andrew Spyrow  
Vicar for Clergy

### Deacons

Rev. Mr. Dana Perrigan  
perrigan2000@yahoo.com  
Mr. Kristopher Compagno  
Permanent Deacon Candidate

### Parish Staff

Administrative Assistant  
Jessica Montgomery  
parishoffice@smstaparishsf.org

Director of Religious Education  
Pastoral Associate  
Sr. Noreen O'Connor, C.S.J.  
noconnor@csjla.org

Music Ministry  
Alix Jerinic  
alixjericin@gmail.com

## St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

3835 Balboa Street  
San Francisco, CA 94121



## St. Thomas the Apostle Church MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday  
9:00 AM

Weekdays  
8:30 AM  
(Monday, Wednesday, and Friday)

First Saturday  
Mass  
8:30 AM

First Saturday Adoration  
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM



# Ephphatha!

Gospel of Mark 7:34

Be opened!





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Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we continue our reflections on the seven sacraments with Holy Matrimony. This is the sacrament through which God unites man and woman together as one in a partnership of love. Their love is meant to be an image of both the love within the Holy Trinity and the love between Christ and the Church.

Marriage is ordered towards the good of the couple, who have entered into a partnership for life. It should be full of faithfulness and expressions of loving sacrifice towards one another. The couple is to see their union with their spouse as their vocation, the calling God has given to them. Through it, they learn what it means to love, to give, to pour oneself out completely for the sake of the other.

Marriage is also given to man and woman that they may bring forth children. Through married couples, God desires to populate this world and to even populate heaven. That is why a couple has the duty to raise their children in the faith, knowing that their children are not only theirs, but that they belong to God as well, his own dear children.

I encourage couple to give themselves more fully to each other. We all have careers and responsibilities that support matrimony, but we must not put the cart before the horse. Married couples are to focus their energy, their time and their passion, toward their spouse. Everything else comes second, except of course God. For those who have been married civilly and have not yet received this holy sacrament, I encourage you to reach out to me. I would be pleased to assist you in consecrating your marriage to God, to the one who wishes to unite you and bless in holiness.

Fr. Ben

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

Thank you to all those who helped with sandwich making on Wednesday, August 21st. A special thank you to those who volunteered to help with shopping for supplies and delivery to the shelter the next day. Future sandwich making will be on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. The next opportunity will be this **Wednesday, September 18th at 7:00 PM**. We meet in the St. Monica Parish Hall.

Our next St. Vincent de Paul collection will be on **September 28th - 29th**.

For questions contact: Maria McDevitt at megmared@comcast.net or 415-515-6945.

***Welcome to all who worship with our parish family,  
whether long time residents or newly arrived in the parish.***

***If you are not registered, please fill out this form and put it in the collection basket or  
mail it to the Rectory.***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

- New Parishioner       New Address       New Phone Number       Remove from List
- Send Sunday Envelopes
- St. Monica       St. Thomas the Apostle

You may register online at: <https://www.osvhub.com/smsstaparishsf/directory/register>



## 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ September 8, 2024



### GOSPEL REFLECTION



Our readings today, offer us a message of hope — God is with us and wants to heal us. May this message come ablaze in our hearts so that we might live with unwavering faith.

The Gospel presents us with the story of the profound physical healing of a deaf man with a speech impediment. People brought him to Jesus and begged for his healing. Jesus took the man off by himself, touched his ears and his tongue, then proclaimed, “Be opened!” Immediately he was healed.

This story in our Gospel overwhelms us with comfort and peace because we have a compassionate God who

sees our physical needs. Yet if we reflect further on this reading, we see that God uses this moment of physical healing as an opportunity to restore something much deeper — our souls.

Oftentimes we are blind and deaf to God in our lives. We miss countless opportunities to see God working in our day-to-day moments — through our loved ones, our community, or even a stranger. We miss the quiet voice of Jesus in our hearts telling us to choose Him instead of sin, respond in love instead of anger, or care for someone else in a moment instead of ourselves.

These are how we need to be spiritually healed. And the scriptures remind us that God is with us and wants to heal us.

This week let us seek God to heal our souls and transform our hearts. Let us pray that our eyes and our ears might “be open” to His workings, words, and promptings in our lives.

~ Catholic Stewardship

### WHAT DOES EPHPHATHA MEAN?

“Ephphatha” is an Aramaic word that means “be opened”. Jesus used this word in Mark's gospel when he healed a deaf man who was isolated from his community. The word appears in Mark 7:34, where Jesus says, “And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened'”.

The word is the ethpa'al imperative of the Aramaic word pethach, which is related to the Hebrew word pathach. Aramaic was the primary language spoken by Jesus and other Jews in their daily lives. The use of the word in the Bible is thought to be a firsthand account from an eyewitness who was deeply affected by the dialectic form.

The word “ephphatha” is also the basis for a ceremony in the Roman Catholic baptism ritual. The Ephphatha Rite is a post-baptism ceremony that points to a future day when the child will profess their own faith.

### WE INVITE ALL OUR PARISHIONERS TO SPEND TIME IN FELLOWSHIP

**ST. MONICA CHURCH - FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY** will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month in the Small Hall following the 11:00 AM Mass. To volunteer, please e-mail Deacon Dana Perrigan at: [perrigan2000@yahoo.com](mailto:perrigan2000@yahoo.com)

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH - SOCIAL SUNDAY** will be held on the 2nd Sunday of every month in the church's vestibule after the 9:00 AM Mass. To volunteer please e-mail Christine Aguerre at: [chriscrk6@gmail.com](mailto:chriscrk6@gmail.com)



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Are you, or anyone you know, interested in becoming a Catholic? Are you already Baptized? Would you like to complete the Sacraments of initiation by receiving the Eucharist and being Confirmed in the Catholic Church? Adults (18+) are invited to join our upcoming Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program here at St. Monica-St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

An introductory meeting will be held next  
**Tuesday, September 17th at 7:00 PM**  
 at our Parish Office (470 24th Ave)

If you are interested in participating  
 or want more information contact:  
 Fr. Ben at 415-751-5275 ext. 222 or  
[pastor@smstaparishsf.org](mailto:pastor@smstaparishsf.org)

**CONGRATULATIONS**

to our Preschool Director, Jessie Men, staff and teachers.

St. Thomas the Apostle Preschool was currently awarded the GOLD MEDAL by the Bay Area Parent Staff. Their evaluation states: "This Catholic preschool strives to prepare students to be productive, socially aware global citizens of the 21st century." Thank you for your educational leadership.

We are proud of you!

***PRAYER FOR RENEWED STRENGTH***

*O Lord, my God, Please give me the grace to maintain my hope in you through all of life's changes and to taste and see your goodness. I praise you for the gifts you have showered on me for so many years. Help me find joy in a renewed strength of spirit. Please bless me with good health, and inspire me to be a good example to others. For you are Lord, forever and ever. Amen.*

**BAY AREA ROSARY RALLY**

IN HONOR OF  
**"OUR LADY WHO UNITES ALL PEOPLES"**

The Mass of the Americas will be offered for All Immigrants by Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone

**SATURDAY,  
 OCT. 12, 2024**

Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption  
 1111 Gough Street @ Geary, San Francisco

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

- 9:30 a.m. Confessions
- 10:00 a.m. Talk: History of the Rosary
- 10:30 a.m. Rosary in the Cathedral
- 11:00 a.m. Mass followed by Procession and Benediction
- 1:00 p.m. Ethnic Food Festival



**THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE  
 IN PRAYING THE ROSARY IN COMMON  
 CAN OBTAIN A PLENARY INDULGENCE**

\*In addition to having no attachment to sin, gaining a plenary indulgence requires participants to fulfill three conditions: sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and vocal prayer for the intention of the Pope.

ARCHDIOCESE OF  
 SAN FRANCISCO

[www.sfarch.org/event/rosary-rally](http://www.sfarch.org/event/rosary-rally)




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*Mass Intentions*

St. Monica				St. Thomas the Apostle			
Mon.	09/09	8:30 AM	Elzbieta Kalek †	Mon.	09/09	8:30 AM	Lai Sang, Special Intention
Tue.	09/10	8:30 AM	Sharon Abram, Special Intention	Tue.	09/10		No Mass
Wed.	09/11	8:30 AM	Eileen De Luca, Special Intention	Wed.	09/11	8:30 AM	Rev. Guillermo Rodriguez †
Thu.	09/12	8:30 AM	Cedric Concon, Birthday	Thu.	09/12		No Mass
Fri.	09/13	8:30 AM	Martin Novak †	Fri.	09/13	8:30 AM	Maria Fanara †
Sat.	09/14	8:30 AM	Florencia Martinez †	Sat.	09/14		No Mass
		5:00 PM	Parishioners	Sun.	09/15	9:00 AM	Jean Sho Tung, Birthday
Sun.	9/15	11:00 AM	Simon Lee †				

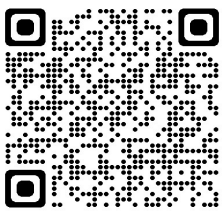
THANK YOU	ST. MONICA	ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
September 1, 2024		
IST COLLECTION	\$1,649.00	\$1,197.00
VIETNAMESE COLLECTION	\$437.00	



*Thank You*

Thank you for your continued support to our Parish.

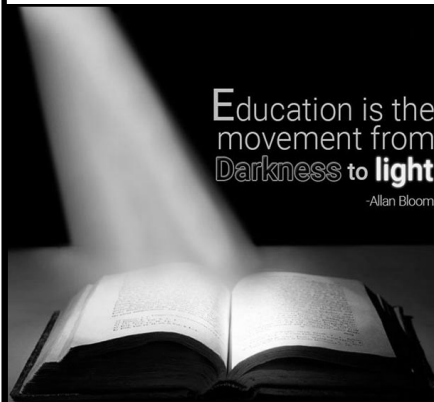
To donate:  
Use your personalized parish offertory envelopes  
or scan the QR code to donate online!



Love and charity, are service, helping others, serving others. There are many people who spend their lives in this way, in the service of others. ... When you forget yourself and think of others, this is love! ~ Pope Francis

**THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA COLLECTION**

**Today we will be our Second Collection will be for the Catholic University of America.**



Education is the movement from Darkness to light  
-Allan Bloom

Since 1903, The Catholic University of America has been blessed by the generosity of parishioners around the country through the National Collection. James Cardinal Gibbons, the first chancellor and the ninth Archbishop of Baltimore, affectionately called the Collection “the people’s endowment.”

Catholic University is the national university of the Catholic Church. Gifts to the National Collection - the only second collection taken for higher education in the U.S. - support students and help the University conduct critical research that will serve parishes and dioceses throughout the country.

**Thank you for your generosity!**

*ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PRAY FOR US*